

EXTENDING THE GROUNDS OF THE CUSTIS-LEE MANSION IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

AUGUST 4, 1959.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MURRAY, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 5138]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 5138) to extend the grounds of the Custis-Lee Mansion in Arlington National Cemetery, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE

H.R. 5138 authorizes and directs the Secretary of the Army to transfer to the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior approximately 0.76 acre of land within the Arlington National Cemetery lying immediately south of the Custis-Lee Mansion for the purpose of extending the grounds to the mansion.

The particular land historically was a garden area on the south side of the Custis-Lee Mansion as shown by a document entitled, "History of the Flower Garden, Custis-Lee Mansion," submitted by the Department of the Interior during the committee hearings on this measure. This historical monograph is part of a study completed by Dr. Murray H. Nelligan, who served as Park Historian of the National Capital Parks and is now Chief of Interpretation, region 5, National Park Service.

The addition of this tract to the mansion grounds will result in the extension of the south boundary of the mansion site from a present distance of 59 feet south of the mansion building to a distance of 276 feet south of the building.

NEED

The enactment of H.R. 5138 would allow the Department of the Interior, through the National Park Service, to carry out plans which have been developed over some time for the completion of the physical

layout of the mansion. These plans were initiated by the Quartermaster General of the Army before the administration of the mansion was transferred to the Department of the Interior.

The particular property which would be transferred contains no graves. The only structure on the tract is the Temple of Fame which was erected about 1884 under the auspices of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The Department of the Interior representative has testified that the Temple of Fame will be maintained as it now exists should this measure be enacted.

COST

The transfer of administration of this real estate will involve no cost to the United States and no transfer of funds is involved between the Departments. However, there will be an expense estimated at \$15,000 in placing the garden area into the desired condition. Also one additional gardener, or equivalent in services, will be needed to be added to the staff of the Custis-Lee Mansion to care for this addition.

The Department of the Interior has submitted information indicating that in the last fiscal year for which information is available the total revenue from admission charges to the Custis-Lee Mansion was \$36,691.25 and maintenance and operation costs for the same period were \$79,859.25.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

The Department of the Army on behalf of the Department of Defense offers no objection to enactment of H.R. 5138.

The Department of the Interior recommends enactment.

The reports of the Departments follow:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., April 13, 1959.

Hon. WAYNE N. ASPINALL,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. ASPINALL: This is in response to the request of your committee for the views of this Department on H.R. 5138, a bill to extend the grounds of the Custis-Lee Mansion in Arlington National Cemetery.

The Department recommends enactment of H.R. 5138.

The provisions of H.R. 5138 accord with the views of the Department with regard to the future development of the Custis-Lee Mansion area. It would provide for transfer by the Secretary of the Army to the Secretary of the Interior, without remuneration, as an extension of the mansion grounds, an area set forth by metes and bounds.

It would allow completion of the physical layout of the mansion. This section of ground now surrounded on two sides by burials was originally the flower garden of the mansion, with a summerhouse located in the center where now stands the Temple of Fame. The plans of the Department for the development of this area represent

a continuation of the plans of the Quartermaster General which were developed at the time Arlington was being restored by that office. Thus it was contemplated years ago to restore the gardens and the kitchen which formerly pertained to the mansion. It was observed at that time that the flower garden had been to the south of the mansion including the area in which is located the Temple of Fame. The kitchen garden was formerly at the north of the mansion and included an area in which at a later date a greenhouse and potting plant had been erected. The area to the north of the mansion has now been restored as a garden, the greenhouse having been removed, and the potting plant having been remodeled to house the Custis-Lee Mansion Museum. The restoration of the flower gardens at the south will help to round out complete development.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

ROGER ERNST,
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,
Washington, D.C., May 7, 1959.

HON. WAYNE N. ASPINALL,
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Reference is made to your request to the Secretary of Defense for the views of the Department of Defense with respect to H.R. 5138, 86th Congress, a bill to extend the grounds of the Custis-Lee Mansion in Arlington National Cemetery. The Secretary of Defense has delegated to the Department of the Army the responsibility for expressing the views of the Department of Defense thereon.

The purpose of the bill is to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Army to transfer to the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior, without remuneration, approximately 0.76 acre of land within the Arlington National Cemetery lying immediately south of the Custis-Lee Mansion for the purpose of extending the grounds of the mansion.

The Department of the Army on behalf of the Department of Defense interposes no objection to the above-mentioned bill.

During the 85th Congress when H.R. 9231, a similar bill, was under consideration the Department of the Army and the Department of the Interior held informal discussions on the transfer of the land involved. These discussions have culminated in agreement on the use of the land and the Department of the Army expressed no objection to transfer of the land described in H.R. 5138, 86th Congress to the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior.

The enactment of this legislation will cause no apparent increase in the budgetary requirements of the Department of Defense.

Inasmuch as the committee has requested that the report be expedited, it is submitted without a determination by the Bureau of the Budget as to whether or not it conforms to the program of the President. As soon as such advice is received it will be forwarded to your committee.

This report has been coordinated within the Department of Defense in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

Sincerely yours,

WILBER M. BRUCKER,
Secretary of the Army.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs recommends enactment of H.R. 5138 without amendment.

